

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method of playing a wagering game including a dealer and at least one player comprising the steps of:

- (a) providing at least one standard deck of 52 playing cards;
- (b) providing a published ranking of winning four-card poker hands;
- (c) providing a predetermined pay scale for winning hands;
- (d) providing a dealer and at least one player;
- (e) commencing the game by having the at least one player make certain initial wagers selected from the following:
 - (1) a first wager against the dealer, and
 - (2) a separate voluntary wager against the predetermined pay scale;
- (f) dealing at least four cards to the at least one player from the at least one standard deck;
- (g) dealing at least four cards to the dealer from the at least one standard deck;
- (h) said at least one player proceeding to play the game by placing a support wager in support of its first wager against the dealer;
- (i) comparing the at least one player's best four card hand against the dealer's best four card hand and excluding all extra cards dealt to determine a relative ranking therebetween as a final outcome of the wagering game;
- (j) paying the at least one player's first wager against the dealer and the at least one player's support wager if the at least one player's hand outranks the dealer's hand;
- (k) paying the at least one player's separate voluntary wager against the predetermined pay scale if the at least one player's hand has achieved a rank at least as high as the first ranking from said published ranking;
- (l) taking the at least one player's separate voluntary wager against the predetermined pay scale if the at least one player's hand fails to achieve at least the minimum ranking from said published ranking;
- (m) taking the at least one player's first wager against the dealer and support wager if the dealer's hand outranks the at least one player's hand; and

(n) returning the at least one player's first wager against the dealer and support wager if said at least one player has the same ranking hand as the dealer.

Claim 2 (currently amended): A method of playing a wagering game including a dealer and at least one player comprising the steps of:

- (a) providing at least one standard deck of 52 playing cards;
- (b) providing a published ranking of winning hands;
- (c) providing a predetermined pay scale for winning hands;
- (d) providing a dealer and at least one player;
- (e) commencing the game by having the at least one player make certain initial wagers selected from the following:
 - (1) a first wager against the dealer, and
 - (2) a separate voluntary wager against the predetermined pay scale;
 - (f) dealing at least four cards to the at least one player from the at least one standard deck;
 - (g) dealing at least four cards to the dealer from the at least one standard deck;
 - (h) said at least one player proceeding to play the game by placing a support wager in support of its first wager against the dealer;
 - (i) comparing the at least one player's best four card hand against the dealer's best four card hand and excluding all extra cards dealt to determine a relative ranking therebetween;
 - (j) paying the at least one player's first wager against the dealer and the at least one player's support wager if the at least one player's hand outranks the dealer's hand;
 - (k) paying the at least one player's separate voluntary wager against the predetermined pay scale if the at least one player's hand has achieved a rank at least as high as the first ranking from said published ranking;
 - (l) taking the at least one player's separate voluntary wager against the predetermined pay scale if the at least one player's hand fails to achieve at least the minimum ranking from said published ranking;
 - (m) taking the at least one player's first wager against the dealer and support wager if the dealer's hand outranks the at least one player's hand; and

(n) returning the at least one player's first wager against the dealer and support wager if said at least one player has the same ranking hand as the dealer.

The method of playing a wagering game as set forth in claim 1 above, wherein the at least one player is provided with an opportunity to place an additional bad beat wager including the further steps of:

providing a predetermined published ranking of winning bad beat hands,

permitting the at least one player to place an additional wager against said predetermined published ranking of winning bad beat hands, and

providing that the at least one player wins said additional wager even in the event the at least one player's hand is outranked by the dealer's hand so long as the at least one player's hand appears on the predetermined published ranking of winning bad beat hands.

Claim 3 (currently amended): A method of playing a wagering game including a dealer and at least one player comprising the steps of:

(a) providing at least one standard deck of 52 playing cards;

(b) providing a published ranking of winning hands;

(c) providing a predetermined pay scale for winning hands;

(d) providing a dealer and at least one player;

(e) commencing the game by having the at least one player make certain initial wagers selected from the following:

(1) a first wager against the dealer, and

(2) a separate voluntary wager against the predetermined pay scale;

(f) dealing at least four cards to the at least one player from the at least one standard deck;

(g) dealing at least four cards to the dealer from the at least one standard deck;

(h) said at least one player proceeding to play the game by placing a support wager in support of its first wager against the dealer;

(i) comparing the at least one player's best four card hand against the dealer's best four card hand and excluding all extra cards dealt to determine a relative ranking therebetween;

(j) paying the at least one player's first wager against the dealer and the at least one player's support wager if the at least one player's hand outranks the dealer's hand;

(k) paying the at least one player's separate voluntary wager against the predetermined pay scale if the at least one player's hand has achieved a rank at least as high as the first ranking from said published ranking;

(l) taking the at least one player's separate voluntary wager against the predetermined pay scale if the at least one player's hand fails to achieve at least the minimum ranking from said published ranking;

(m) taking the at least one player's first wager against the dealer and support wager if the dealer's hand outranks the at least one player's hand; and

(n) returning the at least one player's first wager against the dealer and support wager if said at least one player has the same ranking hand as the dealer.

The method of playing a wagering game as set forth in claim 1 above, wherein the dealer and the at least one player are dealt five cards, and each of the dealer and the at least one player continue play with a best hand achievable by any four of the five dealt cards and exclude the fifth card, wherein the method further comprising a step of determining the best hand by comparing the player's best four card combination hand of the at least one player's hand against the dealer's best four card hand and against any predetermined pay scale in the event of an optional second bet bets placed against the dealer by the at least one player by such predetermined pay scales.

Claim 4 (previously presented): The method of playing a wagering game as set forth in claim 1 above, which provides for the at least one player to place an additional side bet, wherein the method further includes steps of:

providing the at least one player with an additional optional progressive wager for a five card progression,

providing a predetermined published ranking of winning five card progressive hands,

providing a predetermined pay scale for each of said predetermined ranking of winning five card progressive hands,

allowing the wagering game to continue with the best of four cards, and

paying the at least one player's progressive optional wager if the at least one player's five card hand matches any one of the predetermined published ranking of winning five card progressive hands.

Claim 5 (currently amended): The method of playing a wagering game as set forth in claim 1 above, wherein the dealer must achieve a qualifying hand to continue playing and the failure to achieve said qualifying hand results in the dealer losing and paying the at least one player the first wager by the at least one player against the dealer, and

wherein the dealer achieving said qualifying hand results in the dealer comparing its best four-card hand against the player's best four-card hand and paying the player, based on an optional second bet against the dealer by the player, when the player's best four card hand outranks the dealer's best four-card hand.

Claim 6 (currently amended): The method of playing a wagering game as set forth in claim 5 above, wherein the qualifying hand required by the dealer in order to continue to play may be predetermined in accordance with any desired ranking comprises king high with a queen.

Claim 7 (canceled)

Claim 8 (currently amended): A method of playing a wagering game including a dealer and at least one player comprising the steps of:

- (a) providing at least one standard deck of 52 playing cards;
- (b) providing a published ranking of winning hands;
- (c) providing a predetermined pay scale for winning hands;
- (d) providing a set predetermined minimum hand ranking for a player-dealer to achieve as a qualifying hand without which a player-dealer will lose after all cards are dealt;
- (e) providing a dealer and at least one player;
- (f) commencing the game by having the at least one player make certain initial wagers selected from the following:
 - (1) a first wager against the dealer, and
 - (2) a separate voluntary wager against the predetermined pay scale;
- (g) dealing at least four cards to the at least one player from the at least one standard deck;

(h) dealing at least four cards to the dealer from the at least one standard deck;

(i) ending the game if the ~~at least one player~~~~dealer~~ fails to achieve a qualifying hand in accordance with said predetermined minimum hand ranking and ~~the dealer taking~~~~paying the~~ at least one player based on the at least one player's first wager;

(j) proceeding with the game if the ~~at least one player~~~~dealer~~ has achieved said qualifying hand;

(k) said at least one player proceeding to play the game by placing a support wager in support of its first wager against the dealer;

(l) comparing the at least one player's best four card hand against the dealer's best four card hand and excluding all extra cards dealt to determine a relative ranking therebetween;

(m) paying the at least one player's first wager against the dealer and the at least one player's support wager if the at least one player's hand outranks the dealer's hand;

(n) paying the at least one player's separate voluntary wager against the predetermined pay scale if the at least one player's hand has achieved a rank at least as high as the first ranking from said published ranking; and

(o) taking the at least one player's separate voluntary wager against the predetermined pay scale if the at least one player's hand fails to achieve at least the minimum ranking from said published ranking.

Claim 9 (previously presented): The method of playing a wagering game as set forth in claim 1 above, further including steps of:

providing a set predetermined minimum hand ranking for the dealer to achieve as a qualifying hand without which the dealer will lose after all cards are dealt;

ending the game if the dealer fails to achieve the qualifying hand in accordance with said predetermined minimum hand ranking and the dealer paying the at least one player's first wager if the at least one player placed the first wager against the dealer and paying the at least one player's separate voluntary wager if the at least one player waged the separate voluntary wager against the predetermined pay scale and achieved a ranking hand pursuant to said published ranking; and

proceeding with the game if the dealer has achieved the qualifying hand.

Claim 10 (previously presented): The method of playing a wagering game as set forth in claim 8 above, further including steps of:

(p) taking the at least one player's first wager against the dealer and support wager if the dealer's hand outranks the at least one player's hand; and

(q) returning the at least one player's first wager against the dealer and support wager if said at least one player has the same ranking hand as the dealer.

Claim 11 -19 (Canceled).

Claim 20 (Currently Amended): A method of playing a wagering game including a dealer and at least one player, said method comprising:

providing a ranking of winning four card poker hands;

dealing at least four cards to the at least one player;

dealing at least four cards to the dealer;

comparing a best four card poker hand of the player against a best four card poker hand of the dealer to determine a final outcome of the wagering game; and

determining whether the best four card hand of the at least one player is higher ranked with respect to the ranking of winning hands than the best four card hand of the dealer.

Claim 21 (previously presented): The method of claim 20, further comprising:

allowing the at least one player to make a first wager against the dealer;

paying the at least one player's first wager if the best four card hand of the at least one player is higher ranked than the best four card hand of the dealer.

Claim 22 (previously presented): The method of claim 21, further comprising taking the at least one player's first wager if the best four card hand of the at least one player is not higher ranked than the best four card hand of the dealer.

Claim 23 (previously presented): The method of claim 21, further comprising returning the at least one player's first wager if the best four card hand of the at least one player has the same rank as the best four card hand of the dealer.

Claim 24 (previously presented): The method of claim 20, wherein the dealer is an electronic device.

Claim 25 (previously presented): The method of claim 21, further comprising:

 said at least one player proceeding to play the game by placing a support wager in support of its first wager against the dealer.

Claim 26 (previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein the support wager is of proportionate value to the first wager.

Claim 27 (previously presented): The method of claim 8, wherein the support wager is of proportionate value to the first wager.

Claim 28 (Canceled).

Claim 29 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 25, wherein the support wager is of proportionate value to the first wager.

Claim 30 (New) The method of claim 20, wherein the ranking of winning hands comprises a four card straight, a four card flush, and a four card straight flush.

Claim 31 (New) The method of claim 25, further comprising the step of:

 paying the support wager on when the dealer's best four card hand is at least of a predetermined rank and the player's best four-card hand is of a higher rank than the dealer's best four card hand;

returning the support wager when the dealer's best four card hand is not at least of the predetermined rank;

returning the support wager when the dealer's best four card hand is at least of the predetermined rank and the player's best four-card hand is of a same rank as the dealer's best four card hand; and

taking the support wager when the dealer's best four card hand is at least of the predetermined rank and the player's best four-card hand is of a lesser rank than the dealer's best four card hand.